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# Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

## Report of the Third Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Naif Bin Bandar **Al-Sudairy** (Saudi Arabia)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 29th to 31st meetings, on 2 and 3 November 1999, and took action at its 35th, 39th, 41st, 43rd and 50th meetings, on 5, 9 to 11 and 17 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/54/SR.29-31, 35, 39, 41, 43 and 50).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this item, see A/54/605.

4. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/54/SR.29).

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/54/605 and Add.1-5.

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# II. Consideration of proposals

## A. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1 and amendments thereto

5. The Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Question of the death penalty" (A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1) and a series of amendments thereto (A/C.3/54/L.30-L.42, L.44, L.47, L.48, L.51 and L.56).

6. At the 50th meeting, on 17 November, the Chairman informed the Committee that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1 and the sponsors of the amendments thereto had indicated that they did not intend to press for action on the proposals. The Committee therefore agreed not to consider draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.8/Rev.1 and the amendments thereto.

## B. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.50

7. At the 35th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (A/C.3/54/L.50). Subsequently, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Sierra Leone and South Africa joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At the 41st meeting, on 10 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.50 (see A/C.3/54/SR.41).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.50 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

## C. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.52

10. At the 35th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights" (A/C.3/54/L.52). Subsequently, Belarus, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Georgia, Latvia and Luxembourg joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At the 39th meeting, on 9 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.52 (see A/C.3/54/SR.39).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.52 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

## D. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.53

13. At the 39th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" (A/C.3/54/L.53). Subsequently, Nicaragua, Portugal and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Mexico orally revised operative paragraph 5 by deleting the words "the launching of" before the words "the global campaign".

15. At its 43rd meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

# III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

16. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### Draft resolution I
### Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[3] and its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and all its subsequent relevant resolutions,

*Recalling* that freedom from torture is a right that must be protected under all circumstances, including in times of internal or international disturbance or armed conflict,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

*Recalling also* that the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, firmly declared that efforts to eradicate torture should, first and foremost, be concentrated on prevention and called for the early adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention,[4]

*Urging* all Governments to promote the speedy and full implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[5] in particular the section relating to freedom from torture, in which it is stated that States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights, such as torture, and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law,[6]

*Recalling* its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

*Recalling also* the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that high priority should be given to providing the necessary resources to assist victims of torture and effective remedies for their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation, *inter alia*, by additional contributions to the Fund,[7]

*Noting with satisfaction* the existence of a considerable international network of centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, which plays an important role in providing assistance to victims of torture, and the collaboration of the Fund with the centres,

*Mindful* of the proclamation by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997 of 26 June as United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee against Torture, and takes note of the report of the Committee,[8] submitted in accordance with article 24 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

2. *Notes with appreciation* that one hundred and eighteen States have become parties to the Convention;

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

4. *Invites* all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States that are parties to the Convention and have not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that have already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20;

5. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible;

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[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 61.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] Ibid., sect. II, paras. 54-61.

[7] Ibid., para. 59.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/54/44).

6. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, in view of the high number of reports not submitted, and invites States parties to incorporate a gender perspective and information concerning children and juveniles when submitting reports to the Committee;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with her mandate established in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to continue to provide, at the request of Governments, advisory services for the preparation of national reports to the Committee and for the prevention of torture, as well as technical assistance in the development, production and distribution of teaching material for this purpose;

8. *Urges* States parties to take fully into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee after its consideration of their reports;

9. *Emphasizes* the obligation of States parties under article 10 of the Convention to ensure education and training for personnel who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment;

10. *Stresses* in this context that States must not punish personnel referred to in paragraph 9 above for not obeying orders to commit or conceal acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

11. *Welcomes* the progress made by the inter-sessional open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the development of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and urges the working group to complete as soon as possible a final text for submission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, for consideration and adoption;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,[9] describing the overall trends and developments with regard to his mandate, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to include in his recommendations proposals on the prevention and investigation of torture;

13. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to continue to examine questions of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment directed against women and conditions conducive to such torture, and to make appropriate recommendations for the prevention and redress of gender-specific forms of torture, including rape or any other form of sexual violence, and to exchange views with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

14. *Also invites* the Special Rapporteur to continue to consider questions relating to the torture of children and conditions conducive to such torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to make appropriate recommendations for the prevention of such torture;

15. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and to assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his task, in particular by supplying all necessary information requested by him, to react appropriately and expeditiously to his urgent appeals

[9] A/54/426.

and to give serious consideration to his requests to visit their countries, and urges them to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur with respect to the follow-up to his recommendations;

16. *Approves* the methods of work employed by the Special Rapporteur, in particular with regard to urgent appeals, reiterates his need to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, in particular Member States, and expresses its appreciation for the discreet and independent way in which he continues to carry out his work;

17. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to consider including in his report information on the follow-up by Governments to his recommendations, visits and communications, including progress made and problems encountered;

18. *Stresses* the need for the continued regular exchange of views between the Committee, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, as well as the pursuance of cooperation with relevant United Nations programmes, notably the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to torture, *inter alia*, by improving their coordination;

19. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

20. *Appeals* to all Governments and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, so that consideration may be given to the ever-increasing demand for assistance;

21. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has accomplished;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Fund;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

24. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its appeal for contributions and its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it, as well as its assessment of the global need for international funding of rehabilitation services for torture victims, and, in this effort, to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in combating torture and assisting victims of torture, commensurate with the strong support expressed by Member States for combating torture and assisting victims of torture;

26. *Invites* donor countries and recipient countries to consider including in their bilateral programmes and projects relating to the training of armed forces, security forces, prison and police personnel, as well as health-care personnel, matters relating to the protection of human rights and the prevention of torture and to keep in mind a gender perspective;

27. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to commemorate, on 26 June, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and a report on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture;

29. *Decides* to consider the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the report of the Committee against Torture and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment at its fifty-fifth session.

## Draft resolution II
## International Covenants on Human Rights

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 52/116 of 12 December 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/9 of 3 April 1998,[10]

*Mindful* that the International Covenants on Human Rights[11] constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General[13] on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[11] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[11] and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[14]

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in examining the progress made by States parties in implementing the obligations undertaken in the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in providing recommendations to States parties on their implementation,

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[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[11] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[12] Resolution 217 A (III).

[13] A/54/277 and Corr.1.

[14] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, and resolution 44/128, annex.

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Appeals strongly* to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as to accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to make the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

3. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to intensify systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to assist such States, at their request, in ratifying or acceding to the Covenants and to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. *Stresses* the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency so that the justification for the appropriateness of measures taken in those circumstances can be assessed;

6. *Encourages* States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

7. *Also encourages* States parties to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to withdrawing them;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the annual report of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session[15] and takes note of General Comments Nos. 25[16] and 26[17] adopted by the Committee;

9. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth and seventeenth[18] and eighteenth and nineteenth[19]

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/54/40).

[16] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/51/40), vol. I, annex V.

[17] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/53/40), vol. I, annex VII.

[18] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 2* (E/1998/22).

[19] Ibid., *1999, Supplement No. 2* (E/1999/22).

sessions and takes note of General Comments Nos. 8,[20] 9,[21] 10,[22] 11[23] and 12[24] adopted by the Committee;

10. *Urges* States parties to fulfil in good time such reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights as may be requested and in their reports to make use of gender-disaggregated data;

11. *Stresses* the importance of fully taking into account a gender perspective in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights at the national level, including in the national reports of States parties and in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

12. *Urges* States parties to take duly into account, in implementing the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights, the observations made at the conclusion of the consideration of their reports by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the views adopted by the Human Rights Committee under the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

13. *Invites* States parties to give particular attention to the dissemination at the national level of the reports they have submitted to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the summary records relating to the examination of those reports by the Committees and the observations made by the Committees at the conclusion of the consideration of the reports;

14. *Once again encourages* all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many local languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

15. *Invites* the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights when considering the reports of States parties to continue to identify specific needs that might be addressed by United Nations departments, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including through the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

16. *Stresses* the need for improved coordination between relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies in supporting States parties, upon their request, in implementing the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and encourages continued efforts in this direction;

17. *Invites* States to continue to contribute, with practical proposals and ideas, to the dialogue on ways of improving the functioning of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

18. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and

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[20] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 2* (E/1998/22), annex V.

[21] Ibid., *1999, Supplement No. 2* (E/1999/22), annex IV.

[22] Ibid., annex V.

[23] E/C.12/1999/4.

[24] E/C.12/1999/5.

appeals to other bodies dealing with similar human rights questions to respect those uniform standards, as expressed in the general comments of the Committees;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to assist States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights in the preparation of their reports, including by convening seminars or workshops at the national level for the purpose of training government officials engaged in the preparation of such reports, and by exploring other possibilities available under the regular programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates, including by the provision of adequate Secretariat staff resources;

21. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps, in particular through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions", a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations.

## Draft resolution III
## International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming once more* the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[25] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[26] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[27] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[28] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[29]

*Bearing in mind* the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

*Reiterating* that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee

[25] Resolution 217 A (III).
[26] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[27] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[28] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[29] Resolution 44/25, annex.

respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

*Aware* of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

*Considering* that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[30] all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

*Underlining* the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia perpetrated in segments of many societies by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

*Recalling* its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

*Bearing in mind* that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 53/137 of 9 December 1998, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fourth session a report on the status of the Convention,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;

2. *Welcomes* the signature or ratification of or accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date, and notes that, pursuant to article 87 of the Convention, only eight ratifications or accessions are still needed for it to enter into force;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

5. *Welcomes* the global campaign for the entry into force of the Convention, and invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the importance of the Convention;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1999/44 of 27 April 1999,[31] to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

[30] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[31] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

to examine ways and means to overcome the obstacles existing to the full and effective protection of the human rights of this vulnerable group;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[32] and requests him to submit an updated report on the status of the Convention to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

8. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

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[32] A/54/346.